

WIPP Quick Facts (As of 08-20-08)

6,849

Shipments received since opening

56,244

Cubic meters of waste disposed

104,130

Containers disposed in the
underground

Preliminary draft permit renewal application available online

A preliminary draft of the WIPP
Hazardous Waste Facility Permit
Renewal Application is now
available on the WIPP Home Page.

Click [here](#) to read the draft online
(Note large file size: 2.06 MB).

WIPP receives RH shipments from Argonne National Laboratory

The first two shipments of RH-TRU waste from Argonne National Laboratory (ANL) departed on August 14 and arrived at the WIPP site early August 16. ANL is only the second site to ship RH-TRU waste to the WIPP. Idaho National Laboratories (INL), which has been shipping RH-TRU waste since January 2007, has safely shipped 167 RH-TRU shipments to WIPP.



A spotter guides the loading of a 55-gallon drum of RH-TRU waste inside an RH canister at Argonne National Laboratory.

RH-TRU shipments from ANL will continue as long as weather allows, then may be delayed again until next spring. ANL is located outside of Chicago and it is difficult to ship from the facility in the winter months.

Four other sites plan to ship RH-TRU waste in the near term: Los Alamos National Laboratory, the Savannah River Site, Oak Ridge National Laboratory and General Electric-Vallecitos Nuclear Center. Adding RH-TRU waste sites to the shipping plan provides a steady stream of RH-TRU waste shipments coming to WIPP over the next few years as INL RH-TRU waste shipments are only planned to continue through next spring.

Shipping rates are dependent on waste characterization, approval and packaging as well as the availability for trucks at the WIPP site.

Information provided by J.R. Stroble (CBFO)



Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman

Secretary Bodman addresses DOE complex

With gas prices and energy consumption on the rise, national attention continues to focus on energy-related issues. On August 7, U.S. Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman took some time to address federal and contractor employees about energy and national security challenges.

As a department, Bodman outlined three fundamental duties:

- ⌘ Lead the nation on a path to meeting our energy needs in a diverse, affordable, clean and environmentally sustainable fashion
- ⌘ Maintain and support the nation's nuclear stockpile and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism here and around the world
- ⌘ Push back the frontiers of science

He addressed the department's efforts in biofuels derived from nonfood sources, the cleaner and more efficient use of coal and other hydrocarbons through the development of carbon capture and storage technology, alternative power sources, nuclear power and fusion.

"We are focused on providing clean, reliable, affordable and sustainable supplies of energy to power our own economy – and the global economy – and to protect our environment," said Bodman.

The Secretary's remarks are available online, where you may watch a video or read the written transcripts (http://www.energy.gov/for_employees.htm).



Learning Opportunity: Biology of Submarines

Many former and current WIPP staff began their careers in the nuclear Navy. Now, one of them is offering a lunchtime colloquium about his experience.

Tom Goff (WTS) was assigned to one of the first nuclear submarines and he will share how it takes a crew of 100 highly-skilled sailors to do what even the simplest fish does: swim, float, hear, see, sense, breath, etc.

The colloquium will take place August 27 at noon in the Skeen-Whitlock Building's Weart Auditorium.

Joint Information Center trains with nationally known experts

Would you know what to do if the media approached you about a WIPP emergency? The best response is to refer them to a WIPP Joint Information Center (JIC) spokesperson and here's why: On August 6-8, members of the JIC trained with nationally recognized emergency response communicators to be ready to provide timely information to the media and the general public.

The trainers, Ron Edmond and Darrell Lankford, came from the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE). Edmond serves ORISE as a senior technical specialist and project manager and specializes in low-trust, high-concern communication issues such as chemical and radiological emergencies, transportation of radioactive waste and environmental issues. Lankford is a consultant for ORISE and together, he and Edmond offer more than 37 years of experience with risk and crisis communications.

Members of the JIC become the public face for WIPP during an emergency. The JIC comprises employees from CBFO, WTS Communication, Business Management and Human Resources, as well as Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories. Also at the training were several members of the Carlsbad Fire Department.

Emphasizing that it is a "joint" information center, trainers stressed the necessity of involvement by local emergency response organizations to ensure proficient JIC operation. Joel Arnwine, Eddy County Emergency Response Coordinator, was present and participated in the table top exercise where crisis situations were simulated.

Preparing for events before they happen was a major emphasis of the training. JIC members were encouraged to prepare answers to questions that they know will be asked during a crisis. This pre-planning will help the JIC respond quickly and accurately.

"The commitment employees and local responders bring to the communication process is important", said Edmond. "This commitment will be essential to the timeliness and accuracy of information provided to the public in an emergency. Additionally, I want to applaud those serving as part of the JIC staff for volunteering their time to ensure vital information is provided in a time of crisis."

ORISE is also working with WTS Communication to incorporate best practices from around the DOE complex.

Additional volunteers are needed to ensure backup coverage of JIC positions in the case of an extended JIC activation. If you would like to participate, contact Susan Scott in Communications.

WIPP Emergency Response Team participates in evaluation

Interested in WIPP?

If you would like to be notified when TRU TeamWorks is updated with the latest information about WIPP, send an e-mail message to TRUTeamWorks@wipp.ws.



WIPP's ERT team working through a rope rescue scenario.

The WIPP Surface Emergency Response Team (ERT) recently participated in the annual Rocky Mountain Coal Mining Institute Evaluation held in Park City, Utah. Eleven teams from companies throughout the country participated.

The two-day event focused on individual and team skills in the areas of rope knot tying, rope rescue scenarios, confined space rescue, hazardous material incidents, victim extrication, medical problems and firefighting scenarios.

The evaluation was very beneficial, as the WIPP team was able to match its skills and expertise with other teams. Overall, the WIPP team performed at a superior grade level, the highest level possible.



Pictured above (l to r): Eddie Roybal, Doug Steffen, Ed McGary, Craig Heine, Albert Castillo, Adrian Munoz, Darren Easley and Chris Bowden.

Members of the ERT that participated were: Ed McGary (Captain), Craig Heine (Co-Captain), Chris Bowden (Utility), Albert Castillo (Medic), Darren Easley (Medic), Eddie Roybal (Rigger) and Adrian Munoz (Rigger). Doug Steffen and Bob Paslay accompanied the team on the trip.

The ERT responds to emergencies on the surface and underground, in particular, they handle medical, fire, hazardous materials, confined space, and high angle rescue situations. Besides responding on site, the WIPP ERT also responds to off-site emergencies as part of agreements with Eddy and Lea counties.

**Information provided by Craig Heine*

The U.S. Department of Energy
Waste Isolation Pilot Plant

Please send comments and/or
suggestions to: TRU TeamWorks

